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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2504

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker,

As the House of Representatives prepares to draft an urgent economic recovery bill designed to create jobs, boost our economy, and turn our nation toward greener energy solutions, let me urge you to carefully consider the unique needs of rural America.

As someone who has been privileged to represent small town Missouri in the Congress, I have come to appreciate how the rural economy helps to drive our national economic engine. That is why I am particularly hopeful that the Congress will look specifically at rural stimulus initiatives when drafting economic recovery legislation.

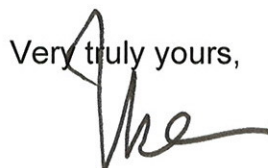
In addition to widely discussed highway and infrastructure improvements that will undoubtedly benefit rural parts of the country, I urge the Congress to consider adding additional money for a variety of rural development programs that already exist.

Directing funds for rural development grants and loans, for renewable energy initiatives, for rural water and sewer improvement, for agricultural research & development, for rural school construction, and for projects administered by the Corps of Engineers will create jobs throughout rural America and help to ensure a better way of life for rural citizens now and into the future.

Further, I urge Congress to embrace a national commitment to expanding Internet broadband access to rural parts of the United States. Doing so will help bring remote areas of the country into the 21st Century, entice business expansion into rural areas, and help stimulate economic activity.

I appreciate your leadership and your taking a moment to review my thoughts. As this process moves forward, I look forward to working in a bipartisan way to take quick action on legislation to help create jobs and stimulate our economy. With warmest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,



IKE SKELTON
Member of Congress

cc: Chairman David Obey